

NOTES & NEWS

Status of *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams, 1854

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IN CURRENT LITERATURE, the name *Pyramidella* (*Pharacidella*) *moffati* Dall & Bartsch, 1906, is used for a West American marine gastropod that was first described as *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams, 1854. DALL & BARTSCH (1906: 323) proposed *P. moffati* as a replacement name. In their very reasonable interpretation, the name *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams, 1854, was considered to be preoccupied by *Obeliscus clavulus* Beck, 1837. Actually, the nomenclatural problem is fairly complex.

Adams' species was initially assigned to the marine gastropod genus *Obeliscus* Humphreys, 1797 (A. ADAMS, 1854: 811; plt. 171, fig. 33). In the original description of Beck's species, it was assigned to the land gastropod genus *Obeliscus* Beck, 1837 (BECK, 1837: 62). Thus, two species bearing the same trivial name, *clavulus*, were assigned to two different, but homonymous, genera.

Under Article 57c of the current International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the name *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams, 1854, is not preoccupied by *Obeliscus clavulus* Beck, 1837, since the two species were not, and never have been, assigned to the same genus. No replacement name is needed and the name *Pyramidella* (*Pharacidella*) *moffati* Dall & Bartsch, 1906, should be ranked as an unnecessary junior objective synonym of *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams, 1854.

DALL & BARTSCH (1906: 323) referred *Obeliscus clavulus* A. Adams to *Pyramidella* (*Pharacidella*). In the most recent commentary on *Pharacidella* Dall, 1889, it was ranked as a subgenus of *Longchaeus* Mörch, 1875 (BARTSCH, 1955: 9). Following this interpretation, the species should be cited as *Longchaeus* (*Pharacidella*) *clavulus* (A. Adams, 1854). The species is referable to *Longchaeus*, but an assignment to the subgenus *Pharacidella* does not seem prudent. The characteristics of *Pharacidella* Dall, 1889, are poorly understood since the type species, *Pyramidella* (*Pharacidella*) *folinii* Dall (1889: 334), has

never been illustrated or described in detail. A brief synonymy is given below.

Longchaeus clavulus (A. Adams, 1854)

Obeliscus clavulus A. ADAMS, 1854: 811; plt. 171, fig. 33
Pyramidella (*Pharacidella*) *moffati* DALL & BARTSCH, 1906: 323
(unnecessary replacement name).

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Odostomia minutissima Dall & Bartsch, 1909
a Synonym of
Odostomia raymondi Dall & Bartsch, 1909

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THOUGH THE NAME *Odostomia* (*Evalea*) *minutissima* Dall & Bartsch, 1909, is preoccupied, it is currently used for a minute marine gastropod known from several Recent and Pleistocene localities in California and Baja California (*e. g.*: DALL & BARTSCH, 1909: 211-212; JORDAN, 1929: 246). Review of the United States National Museum collection suggests that the name *O. minutissima* Dall